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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re U.S. Patent Application of:

Immanuel BUSCHATZ et al.

Serial No. 10/084,271

Filed February 27, 2002

For DEVICE FOR PLACING A DRIVE
ELEMENT ON A VALVE

Examiner: Ruth C. Rodriguez

Art Unit: 3677

Confirmation No. 7106

June 5, 2003

Charlotte, North Carolina

Commissioner for Patents

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

RESPONSE

Sir:

With regard to the Official Action on the above-captioned application, mailed May 5, 2003, the applicant responds by traversing the restriction and election requirement and by making a provisional election.

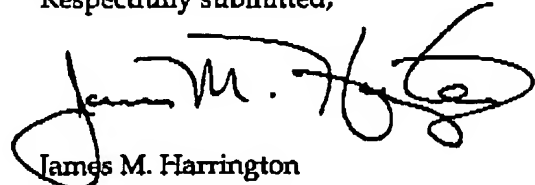
Claims 1-11 are pending in the present application. Claims 2 and 11 are subject to a restriction and election requirement on the stated grounds that the claims are directed to patentably distinct species of the claimed invention. The restriction and election requirement are respectfully traversed.

Specifically, the requirement is traversed on the ground that generic claim 1, from which both claims 2 and 11 directly depend, is allowable as filed, and that even if claims 2 and 11 present patentably distinct species, both claims are likewise allowable as depending from an allowable independent claim. Moreover, the presence of a threaded connection does not itself preclude a snap connection, and vice versa, as a device according to the present invention could have both. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that claim 11 is readable on an embodiment

having the characteristics of claim 2, and that claim 2 is readable on an embodiment having the characteristics of claim 11. In view of the foregoing, the requirement is respectfully traversed.

Notwithstanding the traversal of the requirement, the applicant provisionally elects Species I, upon which the generic claims and claim 2 are readable.

Respectfully submitted,



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CERTIFICATE OF TRANSMISSION UNDER 37 CFR 5.1.8

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the United States Patent and Trademark Office at 703-872-8326, on the date indicated below.

6/5/2003
DATE


JAMES M. HARRINGTON